

# Marsh Notes

Finding Vegetative  
Solutions for  
Conservation  
Problems



USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

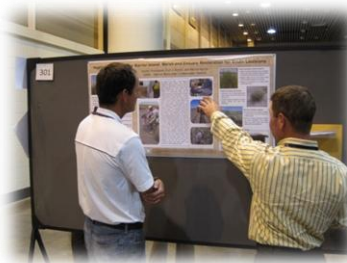
## Planting Trials to Assist CWPPRA Vegetative Projects

The Louisiana Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center (PMC) with the cooperation of NRCS Water Resources staff and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries conducted a planting trial on Marsh Island located approximately 10 miles south of Iberia Parish, LA. The trial consisted of Pelican Germplasm black mangrove planted randomly across the island to test for adaptability and how herbivory has an effect on establishment for future plantings. Black mangrove serves as sediment stabilizer, contributes leaf biomass to the marine food chain and detrital cycle, and provides habitat for numerous biological organisms. It is also an important vegetative component for pelican nesting habitat along Louisiana barrier islands. This demonstration will aid in coastal re-vegetation efforts put forth by the The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) in years to come.



## State of the Coast Conference 2012

The PMC presented a technical poster at the 2012 State of the Coast Conference held in New Orleans, LA. State of the Coast 2012 website stated that this conference was a tremendous success again this year, with more than 850 attendees making it the largest and most comprehensive forum on the protection and restoration of Louisiana's coast history. 112 presentations, 122 posters, 70 exhibitors, 3 keynote speeches and 2 plenary sessions helped make State of the Coast 2012 the world's most informative and complete gathering of ideas and methods to address coastal land loss in Louisiana. Our poster display was comprised of the eight release plants and other technical studies that are currently underway at the PMC. PMC staff was present to represent NRCS and to address questions pertinent to plant materials program and provide scientific publications.



## Summer ISSUE 2012

### GREEN FACTS

Corn is produced on every continent of the world with the exception of Antarctica.

[http://www.ebizarre.com/Category/Plants and Nature](http://www.ebizarre.com/Category/Plants_and_Nature)

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### PMC VEG QUIZ

Can you identify this native species?



Answer in next publication

Answer to Spring 2012 PMC Veg Quiz:  
Slender Rosinweed  
(*Silphium gracile* A. Gray)

## The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

*We develop and transfer plant materials and plant technology for the conservation of natural resources. In working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the program seeks to address priority needs of field offices and land managers in both public and private sectors. Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a sustainable way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.*



If you would like more information call us at (985) 475-5280 or visit our web site at <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/lapmc>

### Assistance Provided to the South Lafourche Levee District

PMC assisted the South Lafourche Levee District by providing California bulrush plants to demonstrate their importance in reducing shoreline erosion. The plants were placed in shallow water on the edge of the toe of the levee to decrease inter tidal and wave action to the shoreline. Also, the PMC provided and installed erosion control matting to the crests of the levee in areas where the soil was bare. Approximately 1200 feet of levee was



protected using this mat in order to aid in seed stabilization so permanent vegetation could rapidly progress.



### Transplant Training at Local School

PMC staff set up a demonstration for fourth graders at Grand Isle School and provided hands on propagation techniques for successful tree establishment. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students collected persimmon, honey locust and live oak seed the previous fall. The seed was propagated at the PMC and used for the tree propagation training held at the end of the school year. Teachers and students were given a tree of choice and a fact sheet on how to care for each respective species.



### Boy Scouts Help Restore Holly Beach

The center was contacted by Boy Scouts of America, Lake Charles, LA in need of bitter panicum plants, one of the PMC's plant releases. PMC provided approximately 3500 stems to help restore an area on Holly Beach, located in Cameron Parish, LA. In addition to providing stems for the project, PMC staff demonstrated alternative propagation techniques for the beach planting to make this endeavor a success.



### Plant Materials Specialist Corner

Cajun Sunrise Germplasm ashly sunflower will be the first official plant variety release from the efforts of the Louisiana Native Plant Initiative partnership. Since work first began with the initiative in 2002 the goal has always been that one day local ecotypic varieties would be available to Louisiana producers. The release of Cajun Sunrise Germplasm brings us one step closer to achieving that goal. Later this fall seed will be offered to commercial seed growers and the general public could possibly see seed available for purchase in 2013. Cajun Sunrise Germplasm is a composite of 10 collections from Jeff Davis Parish, and is targeted for use in coastal prairie restoration plantings, as a pollinator species, for revegetation along highways, low input landscapes, and as food and cover for numerous wildlife species.

**We're on the Web!**

[www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov)